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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1950





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FOR

1950

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

Mayor

Councillor A. G. RUDGE, J.P. *(until March 1950)*
Councillor C. WILLETTS, J.P. *(from May 1950)*

Deputy Mayor

Alderman F. L. ROSE, J.P., C.C. *(until May 1950)*
Councillor J. H. GREEN *(from May 1950)*

Aldermen

H. J. COX, J.P. W. HODGETTS
H. PARKES, J.P., C.A. *(until May 1950)*
F. L. ROSE, J.P., C.C. T. SMITH
L. HARPER *(from May 1950)*

Councillors

CENTRAL WARD

T. Craddock *(until May 1950)* P. Timmins *(from May 1950)*
Miss R. D. Grove *(from May 1950)* C. Brown
A. G. Rudge, J.P. *(until March 1950)*

NORTH WARD

F. Higgs *(from May 1950)* H. Roberts W. Parkes, C.C.

SOUTH WARD

J. H. Green F. D. Woodhall *(from May 1950)*
G. A. Southall, C.C. L. Harper *(until May 1950)*

EAST WARD

W. E. V. H. Guest A. Spring W. J. Balderstone

WEST WARD

K. Kirton J. J. Shakespeare C. Willetts, J.P.

(Alderman F. L. Rose, J.P., C.C., was Mayor
from March to May.)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health.

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

F. S. MELVILLE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

F COLBERT (a.b.c.) (*from February 1950*).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A. R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.).

D. R. REDGWELL (a.b.c.).

Chief Clerk.

G. W. J. LEWIS.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health.

MRS. J. PEPLOW (*until May 1950*).

MISS M. TAYLOR (*from May 1950*).

Clerks.

MRS. H. DEELEY.

MRS. V. JEFFS.

T. G. GUEST.

(a) Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate.

(b) Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate.

(c) Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

Council House,
Halesowen.

Mr. Mayor, Councillor Miss Grove, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirteenth Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Halesowen.

The year, unfortunately, was marked by the high incidence of poliomyelitis in the Borough. It was part of an outbreak which affected the Midlands, and the incidence for the country as a whole was above average. There were three deaths out of a total of fifty-one cases in the Borough of Halesowen. Again this year there were four deaths from motor vehicle accidents. There were no deaths from diphtheria.

The birth rate continues to be below the average, 13.3 as against 15.8 for England and Wales. The crude death rate of 9.58, when multiplied by the comparability factor of 1.15, gives a death rate of 11.0, which compares very favourably with the death rate of 11.6 for England and Wales.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support, to express my gratitude to Mr. Archer and his staff, and my appreciation of the help given to me by Mrs. Peplow, who resigned in May after being here four and a half years, and to Miss Taylor, who succeeded her, and last, but not least, Dr. F. S. Melville.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is	5,247 acres
Population, Census 1931	31,058
Population mid 1950	40,280
Rateable Value, March, 1950	£165,468
The sum represented by a penny rate	£611
Number of houses in the Borough	11,721

Halesowen forms part of the northern area of the County of Worcester. It is partly industrial, partly residential and partly agricultural. The general altitude above sea level varies from 648 feet at Hill and Cakemore, 434 feet at Halesowen, to 481 feet at Cradley.

The principal industries are :—brickmaking, button manufacture, clothing manufacture, fire clay and terra cotta, chain and spike making, tube and tube fittings, perambulators, iron casting, odd iron work, coal mining, electrical work and agriculture.

The majority of the population work in the above-mentioned industries.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

(a) Live births :		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Legitimate		277	...	249	...	526
Illegitimate		4	...	5	...	9
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		281		254		535
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
(b) Stillbirths :						
Legitimate		5	...	3	...	8
Illegitimate		—	...	—	...	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		5		3		8
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.3
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.8

DEATHS.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	214	172	386
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			9.58
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.60
Death Rate for 148 towns estimated resident population			
25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census			11.60
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			31.80
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales			29.80

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	11 ...	5 ...	16
Illegitimate	— ...	1 ...	1
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 17

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

<i>Cause of death</i>	<i>Total deaths</i>	<i>Under 1 month</i>
Prematurity	7	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	1
Neonatal Asphyxia	1	1
Broncho-pneumonia	2	—
Congenital Heart Disease	2	1
Congenital Abnormalities	2	1
Gastro-enteritis	1	—
Purulent Peritonitis	1	1
	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 12

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	11	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	21
18. Coronary disease, angina	24	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	10
20. Other heart diseases	39	39
21. Other circulatory diseases	9	1
22. Influenza	4	2
23. Pneumonia	9	8
24. Bronchitis	24	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	2	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
31. Congenital malformations	4	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	3
34. All other accidents	1	1
35. Suicide	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	<hr/> 214	<hr/> 172

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen.

(a) (i) *Public Health Officers.*

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page three.

(ii) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the direction of Dr. H. J. Henderson.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.*

The ambulance service is controlled by the Worcestershire County Council, with the Chief Sanitary Inspector acting as Ambulance Officer for the Borough.

There are five ambulances with four whole time drivers, the ambulance station being situated centrally in the Council Depot. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade attend at the station during the week and at week-ends and participate in the work.

Set out in the following table are the statistics giving details of the cases conveyed by the service in the years 1949 and 1950.

	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Accident</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Hospital Transfer</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Deceased</i>	<i>Total</i>
1949	469	157	206	7	4430	23	5292
1950	1037	118	211	36	5944	21	7367
Increase or decrease	+567	—39	+5	+29	+1514	—2	+2075

The number of patients carried shows an increase in 1950 of 2,075 as compared with 1949. Of the total 7,367 cases, 6,255 were “sitting” cases and 1,112 stretcher cases.

It will be seen that the largest increases are shown under the heading “illness” and “treatment.” These increases are due to the high incidence of sickness during the early winter and to the increasing outpatient treatment now being given in hospitals. An encouraging feature is the decrease of 39 in the number of accident cases attended. The ambulances travelled 62,569 miles during the year compared with 45,548 miles in 1949, an increase of 17,021 miles. The average number of miles travelled per patient was 8.5.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough are those in the City of Birmingham, the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley. Maternity cases go to the Mary Stevens Hospital at Stourbridge and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity

Hospital at Stourport. Ambulance facilities are also provided for the Romsley Sanatorium.

Infectious diseases are conveyed by the two ambulances stationed at Hayley Green Hospital.

(c) *Nursing in the home.*

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the district. They have also arranged a "home-help" service in conjunction with the W.V.S.

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment is the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(e) *Infectious Disease.*

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital, which is recognised by the General Nursing Council as a training school for fever nurses. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the day-to-day administration of the hospital comes under Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

(f) *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions are provided by the County Council. The district has three centres, Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

SECTION C.

WATER.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The water supplied to the Borough is a constant supply and both quality and quantity are satisfactory.

The water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company from two main sources. One comes from the Kinver and Prestwood Pumping Stations situated outside the Borough in the Smestow Valley, and this has now been supplemented by a supply of raw water from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct at Hayley Green, where it is treated before pumping into supply. The supply at both Kinver and Prestwood Pumping Stations is chlorinated at the source. A limited area of the Borough between the Borough boundary at Hayley Green and Hasbury Farm is being supplied from the Hayley Green source. A treatment works, a pumping station and a covered reservoir are now at an advanced stage of construction at Hayley Green and when these works are completed, it is intended that an increasingly higher proportion of the Borough will be supplied with water from this source.

Regular monthly sampling and analysis is undertaken by the Company, both of raw and treated water. The results both of the supplies from the Kinver and Prestwood Pumping Stations and of the water from the Elan Aqueduct have been uniformly satis-

factory. Although the water is not subject to plumbo-solvency, samples are taken for lead. The average chemical results for the two sources of supply during 1950 were as follows:—

	<i>Kinver and Prestwood</i>	<i>Hayley Green</i>
	<i>Pumping Stations</i>	
No. of Samples	12	52
	<i>Parts per million</i>	<i>Parts per million</i>
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	79	10
Chlorides (Cl)	32.4	10.8
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	.020
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	2.7	.9
Oxygen absorbed (3hr. at 27°C)	.12	1.43
Temporary Hardness	73	5
Permanent Hardness	60	18
Total Hardness	133	23
Iron (Fe) .....	.04	.16
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	Trace
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil
Zinc	Nil	

In addition to the Company, the Department took eleven samples of water for chemical and bacteriological examination which were all satisfactory.

<i>Main Extensions during 1950</i>				
	3"	4"	6"	24"
	108	839	15	3,586 yards
The following main extensions in the Borough were completed during 1950:—				
	<i>Yds.</i>		<i>Yds.</i>	
<i>Cradley</i>	3"		4"	
Fatherless Barn Site	47		239	
Foxcote Lane	61			
Mogul Lane			84	
<i>Halesowen</i>				
Stourbridge Road,				
Grammar School Lane				350
<i>Hasbury</i>				
Huntingtree Road			2	9
Hagley Road				6
Hagley Road, Albert Road,				
Elizabeth Road, Windsor Street				2296
<i>Hawne</i>				
Carol Crescent			112	
<i>Lapal</i>				
Howley Grange Estate			378	
<i>Lutley</i>				
Hagley Road			24	940

The number of houses in the Borough is 11,721 and of these only twelve isolated dwellings are not supplied with mains water. 769 of these houses have taps outside the house, usually in the adjoining wash-house. The isolated dwellings depend on private wells for a water supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is a dual system of sewers in the district, the surface water being collected separately from the foul wastes. With the exception of isolated dwellings, and a group of houses at Illey, most of the premises in the Borough are connected to a sewer.

The Borough of Halesowen is one the constituent authorities of the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board and most of the Board's area is dealt with by broad irrigation of farm lands at Whittington, near Kinver.

These farms have been somewhat overloaded for some years and, to deal with this overload, the Board has constructed additional disposal works at Quarry Bank. The process there is sedimentation in tanks followed by treatment in filter beds.

For the purpose of dealing with storm water from a portion of the Board's area, tanks have been constructed at Belle Vale, Halesowen. These were practically completed in 1950 and have now been brought into operation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND TRANSPORT.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector supervises the removal of refuse, the collection of salvage and the maintenance of Corporation vehicles.

SECTION D.

Housing

Details of inspection of houses are given later in the report.

In 1950 the number of houses erected was 153. Before the war, 1,844 houses were erected by Halesowen Council and since the war, up to the end of 1950, 564 permanent and 86 temporary houses have been built.

In 1950 seven families were re-housed on health grounds, namely tuberculosis.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Details of this work will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

	<i>England & Wales</i>	<i>Halesowen</i>
Typhoid	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.04
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.15
Diphtheria	0.02	0.05
Measles	8.39	2.78
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.17	0.05
Pneumonia	0.70	0.17
Acute Poliomyelitis		
<i>Paralytic</i>	0.13	1.18
<i>Non Paralytic</i>	0.05	0.25

SMALLPOX.

No case was reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Forty-two cases were reported during the year. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases were reported during the year. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The work is the responsibility of the County Council and the department continues to carry on the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics on their behalf.

It is essential that there should be no falling-off in the percentage of children immunised if our comparative freedom from this disease is to be maintained. The percentages of the child population immunised at 31st December, 1950, were :—

Under 5 years ...	57.3
5 — 15 years	93.7
the estimated mid-year population being :—	
Under 5 years ...	3,113
5 — 15 years	5,893

The number of children treated at the Clinics during 1950 was as follows :—

	<i>Completed Primary Treatment</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
Under 5 years	171	—
5 — 15 years	26	254
	<hr/> 197 <hr/>	<hr/> 254 <hr/>

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Diseases, like other situations, lose their awe-inspiring character when they become familiar. The spectacular affections that occur rarely but attack quickly and severely are the most feared.

From 1929 to 1949 inclusive there had been only eleven cases of poliomyelitis notified, the last one was a non-paralytic case in 1947. In 1950 there were fifty-one cases with three deaths.

The first case, a school child, occurred in the West Ward, the date of onset being the 20th May. On May the 21st a baby was affected in the North Ward. The first case notified of poliomyelitis in the Central Ward had the 7th June as the date of onset and June 12th was the date of onset of the first patient in the South Ward, by which time there had been three cases in the North Ward. The last patient first showed symptoms of illness on the 28th September. This patient was living in the West Ward. I think it of interest to note that :—

1. It was not a hot summer. It was, in fact, wet and rather cold.
2. I have never seen fewer flies here during the summer months, presumably due to a very late cold spell.
3. We have two main water supplies in the Borough.
4. In general the standard of cleanliness in the affected homes was good, and only a few could be called sub-standard.

In my opinion its spread here seemed to differ in no appreciable manner to other upper respiratory infections. The nutrition and general physique of the patients attacked was good. With regard to the ten non-paralytic cases the sexes were equally divided and all were under ten years of age. Of the paralytic cases (a paralytic case is one which at any time during the course of illness

shows any evidence of muscular weakness, even though the weakness is temporary), twenty-four were males and seventeen females. Counting children over five years of age and adults, there were nine males and ten females, whereas, of those under five years of age, fifteen were males and seven females. In three families there were two members attacked, one five days, one seven days and one eight days after the first case.

POLIOMYELITIS NOTIFICATIONS.

		<i>Wards</i>					<i>Total</i>
		<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Central</i>	
January	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	.....	1	—	—	—	—	1
June	.....	6	3	—	4	4	17
July	.....	7	10	—	1	1	19
August	.....	—	1	1	6	1	9
September	.....	—	—	—	4	—	4
October	.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
November	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
		14	14	1	16	6	51

ERYSIPELAS.

There were two cases reported. There were no deaths.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.

There were three cases notified. All recovered.

MEASLES.

There were one hundred and twelve cases notified, seventy-five of which were in the North Ward. The previous year the highest incidence was again in the North Ward with one hundred and sixty cases out of a total of five hundred and twenty-five.

MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS.

	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Wards East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	1	—	1	—	2
April	1	—	—	—	1	2
May	12	—	4	—	—	16
June	56	3	2	1	4	66
July	3	2	2	—	1	8
August	1	—	—	—	—	1
September	—	1	—	2	—	3
October	—	—	1	1	3	5
November	1	—	—	—	1	2
December	1	—	1	4	1	7
	<hr/> 75	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 112

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There was a decrease in the number of notifications of this illness over the previous year, there being one hundred and twenty-seven cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-seven cases were notified during the year. All were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of cases on the register at the end of 1950 was :

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non Pulmonary</i>	
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
104	91	15	19

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950

<i>Age</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 1 year ...	—	—
1— 5 years ...	—	—
5—10 years ...	—	—
10—15 years ...	—	1
15—20 years ...	2	2
20—25 years ...	5	6
25—35 years ...	5	2
35—45 years ...	4	3
45—55 years ...	6	—
Over 55 years ...	1	—
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 14

FOOD POISONING

During 1950 there were seven cases of food poisoning notified. They were distributed as follows :—

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>
Nil	Nil	7	Nil

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS.

<i>Total outbreaks</i>	<i>Total cases</i>
2	5

Salmonella newport was the organism discovered in the first outbreak, affecting three patients. All were members of the same family and only one, a child of ten months, had any clinical symptoms. The father and mother, though apparently well, were found to be harbouring the same organism.

The second outbreak affected the father and son of a family, the organism in this case being Salmonella typhimurium. The father was admitted to hospital on the 20th June and the son on the 1st July. They both made a satisfactory recovery.

In neither of these outbreaks was the article of food identified.

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE.

Nil.

SINGLE CASES.

There were two single cases with Salmonella typhimurium discovered in each. They occurred in different parts of the Borough and with an approximate interval of two months between them. The other members of these households were negative.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1950

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total</i>	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	65—
Scarlet Fever ...	42	—	1	11	27	1	1	1	—
Diphtheria ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Measles ...	112	—	19	30	61	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	127	14	41	34	33	1	—	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	51	4	15	11	11	4	4	2	—
Pneumonia ...	7	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	1
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery ...	26	—	2	4	12	1	—	7	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
<i>TOTALS</i>	374	20	78	91	147	9	7	20	2

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

During 1950 the work of the Department proceeded steadily and as there were less staff changes than in the previous year rather more was accomplished. The emphasis of the work continued to be on investigating complaints concerning housing defects, visiting applicants for Council houses, the inspection of premises where food is prepared or sold, and maintaining an adequate public cleansing service.

As a long term measure to deal with atmospheric pollution, four stations were set up to provide statistics which will give an index of the type and amount of pollution in various parts of the Borough, and the results are referred to in the report.

The work of refuse and salvage collection was only maintained during the winter months with the greatest difficulty and ingenuity and continually suffered because of the difficulty of maintaining and attracting suitable men.

The success of the department's activities was due largely to the excellent teamwork within the department between the technical staff, the clerical staff and the workmen.

The help and advice of Dr. R. L. Corlett and the interest of the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor W. H. Guest, and the members was much appreciated. The Department was again indebted on many occasions to the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., and to officers and colleagues in other departments for their assistance and co-operation.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

HOUSING

The number of complaints concerning housing defects continues to increase because of the steady and insidious deterioration of much of the older type of property. An increasing number of property owners are reluctant to carry out repairs until they receive a notice from the Public Health Department asking them to do so. The difficulty from the department's point of view is the extent to which repairs ought reasonably to be required, bearing in mind that many of the houses referred to are those which would by now have been demolished but for the war. The time must come soon when the Council will need to consider a comprehensive plan for removing houses which are completely unfit and incapable of being rendered fit, and this will need to be done in step with a programme for reconditioning those properties which, although not modern, still have many years of useful life. The extent of this problem is not accurately known, and cannot be until some type of housing survey is carried out, and it is proposed to do this.

With regard to the allocation of new houses, officers of the department attend every meeting and report on the circumstances of each applicant living in private property. Opportunity is taken to prepare reports to the Public Health Committee on those houses which are considered suitable for demolition to prevent their further occupation when the tenant is rehoused.

By the end of December 1950, the number of applicants for Council houses was 2,183.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Residing in Private Houses</i>	<i>Residing in Council Houses</i>	<i>Residing Outside Borough</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tenants	460	14	—	474
Lodgers	547	520	—	1067
Living Apart	20	24	—	44
Unclassified	79	—	519	598
	1106	558	519	2183

The figures given above have only a very limited value because the actual need of the applicants for rehousing varies considerably, and in some cases, although there is a strong desire for rehousing, the need may not be very great. Without the knowledge which a complete housing survey would provide, the figures give no indication of the real housing position.

Table I.

1. <i>Inspections of dwelling houses during the year:—</i>						
(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	888
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1,763
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	18
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	99
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	18
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	151
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—</i>						
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	140
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—</i>						
(a)	Proceeding under Public Health Acts:—					
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	43
	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—					
	(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	51
	(b) by local authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Sections 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	9
	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	...	2
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which a Closing Order has been made	...	...	...	...	1

4. *Housing Act, 1936. Part IV—Overcrowding:—*

No detailed figures are available as to the extent of overcrowding.

A rapid survey involving external inspection only of 686 houses to classify for future action showed that 275 houses were not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION & DISTRIBUTION

MILK SUPPLY.

Most of the milk sold in the Borough is heat treated, and the amount of raw milk consumed is only a small proportion of the whole. The chief suppliers are three large firms, one of which operates a very efficient heat treatment plant in the Borough.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, which came into force on October 1st, 1949, 92 retailers were registered as distributors, 91 licences to use the designation 'Sterilised' and 14 licences to use the designation 'Pasteurised' were issued, together with 8 licences to use the designation 'Tuberculin Tested,' and one to use the designation 'Accredited.' Six dairies in the Borough were registered.

The following samples of milk were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory :—

20 Tuberculin Tested.
17 Pasteurised.
13 Sterilised.
4 Raw Milk.

Nine samples of raw, undesignated milk were examined biologically and found free from tubercle bacilli.

ICE-CREAM.

The following registrations were in force at the end of 1950 in respect of ice-cream :—

Registration for manufacture, storage and sale	15
Registration for sale only	66

All the manufacturers are on a small scale and with two exceptions the complete cold mix method is used. Ice-cream in nearly all cases is made intermittently and forms a subsidiary interest usually to the sale of confectionery or sweets.

All the premises were regarded as satisfactory, and were usually kept so. Regular visiting was maintained throughout the year and particularly during the summer.

The table below gives the result of samples examined in accordance with the methylene blue test.

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>
65	1	75
10	2	11
13	3	14
	4	Nil
Total 88		

As in the previous year there was considerable variation in the chemical composition of samples of ice-cream from different vendors. Nevertheless there was a general improvement in quality.

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Fat Content %</i>
—	0.1 — 3.0
1	3.1 — 5.0
9	5.1 — 7.0
29	7.0 — 9.0
25	9.1 — 11.0
9	11.1 — 13.0
8	13.1 — 15.0
1	15.1 — 17.0
4	17.1 — 19.0
1	19.1 — 21.0
1	21.1 — 23.0
Total 88	

The Council continued its policy of publicising in the monthly minutes of the Council meetings, the results of the chemical analysis of all ice-cream samples.

FOOD SAMPLING.

Halesowen is not a Food & Drugs authority, but 147 samples were taken during the year by the officers of the department.

Milk	62	Doughnuts	3
Custard Powder ...	4	Malt Vinegar	1
Medicinal Products ...	3	Condensed Milk	2
Jam	3	Ginger Beer	1
Spice	2	Dried Milk	2
Gelatine	2	Semolina	1
Salad Cream	2	Rice	3
Baking Powder ...	2	Sago	1
Tomato Ketchup ...	2	Ginger	1
Cherries	2	Dehydrated Onions ...	1
Saccharin	1	Junklets	1
Water Samples ...	8	Crab Paste	1
Pork Brawn	1	Whalemeat Steak ...	1
Dried Egg	2	Glycerine	1
Flour	2	Marshmallow Wafer ...	1
Icing Sugar	1	Coffee	1
Jelly	2	Choc Crunch	1
Lemonade	2	Beer	6
Sausage	1	Ground Almonds ...	1
Lemon Tarts	3	Whisky	5
Cream Buns	3	Gin	1

Two unsatisfactory samples were taken by the Public Health Department staff. One was 'Junklets' incorrectly labelled, and the small stock was surrendered. The second was a sample of beer in which the lead content was over the suggested safe limit. The lead pipes to the beer pumps were replaced with plastic pipes.

A total of 227 samples was taken by the officers of the Worcester County Council and these comprised:—

- 110 formal milk samples.
- 46 informal milk samples.
- 6 miscellaneous samples (formal).
- 34 miscellaneous samples (informal)
- 2 drug samples (formal).
- 14 drug samples (informal).
- 15 samples (informal) taken under the

Food Standards Orders.

Serious adulteration was found in one sample only—Tincture of Iodine—38.3% deficient of potassium iodide. The vendor was prosecuted and conviction obtained, the vendor being fined £2 with £1 costs.

The Department is indebted to M. M. Love, Esq., F.R.I.C., County Analyst, and his staff, for their help and co-operation; to Mr. F. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council; and to Mr. N. T. Jones, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measures, for the information relating to samples taken by the County Council staff.

FOOD PREMISES.

Steady progress continued to be made in improving premises where food is manufactured, prepared or sold.

Structural alterations were carried out at 50 of these, and improved hot water supply installed at 48 of them.

In general, the standard of cleanliness of these premises was satisfactory. Legal proceedings, however, were taken regarding the unsatisfactory state of a bakehouse. The firm concerned was fined a total of £45, £5 on each of nine offences.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Efforts to improve the standard of these premises continued. Co-operation was again received from the Companies owning these properties. Sampling of beer from premises using lead supply pipes to the beer pumps resulted in the lead pipes at three public houses being replaced with stainless steel or plastic pipes.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All the fresh meat sold in the Borough is distributed from Birmingham in specially designed vans. A few slaughter-houses were used intermittently for the slaughter of pigs, of which quite a number are reared locally. As many as possible are inspected and are usually found to be quite healthy.

The list of foodstuffs found to be unfit for consumption is given below. Most of this was voluntarily notified to the department for surrender.

MEAT

- 2 hearts (pig), pericarditis.
- 2 livers (pig), tuberculosis.
- 18 lungs (pig), inflammation.
- 2 lungs (pig), pneumonia.
- 2 lungs (pig), tuberculosis.
- 1 mesentery (pig), tuberculosis.
- 1 pig, acute swine erysipelas.
- 1 side of bacon, decomposition.
- 2 hindquarters of beef, bone taint.
- 9 lbs. liver (sheep), flukes.
- 20 lbs. ham, decomposition.

OTHER FOODS

Milk	...	...	...	294 tins
Meat	...	...	...	316 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	340 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	147 tins
Fish	...	...	...	196 tins
Soup	...	...	...	39 tins
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	27 tins
Fat	...	...	...	114 lbs
Sauce	...	...	...	1 bottle
Apricot Pulp	...	...	...	1 gallon
Eggs	...	...	...	1404
Butter	...	...	...	72 lbs
Figs	...	...	...	28 lbs

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The degree of atmospheric pollution in the Borough varies from district to district, but in general the Borough is fortunate in that the prevailing winds are between south-west and north-west. By virtue of the Borough's position on the southern boundary of the industrial Midlands, the incidence of pollution is less than places further to the north and north-east, which lie in the industrial areas.

The types of atmospheric pollution which give the most trouble are those from industrial processes such as foundry work, brick-making etc., and are the ones with which it is most difficult to deal. Many of the problems met with usually involve a careful study of trade processes, and it is a matter of some concern that so little technical information on many of the problems encountered is readily available. There is undoubtedly not only scope but need for considerable research into the various causes and means for counteracting the emission of dust, grit and fumes into the atmosphere.

To establish reliable statistics on the extent of certain types of atmospheric pollution in the Borough, and to provide a standard whereby the reduction or increase in pollution can be indicated, the Council have agreed to systematic recording. On the 1st June, 1950, four stations were set up with deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments. The deposit gauges are general purpose instruments for measuring pollution, and they collect samples of all chief impurities in the area. They are most effective for sampling ash and other particles which fall rapidly. The lead peroxide in-

struments sited with the deposit gauges provide a useful index of what might be called activity of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, that is, its affect in attacking, for example, the fabric of buildings. They are also useful in specific instances in ensuring that no major change in the pollution of a neighbourhood shall go undetected.

The stations are sited as follows :—

1. Hayley Green Hospital, Hayley Green, Halesowen.
2. Central Library, Council House, Halesowen.
3. Olive Hill County Primary School, Springfield Road, Blackheath.
4. Cradley County Modern School, Homer Hill, Cradley.

The figures to the end of the year which have been obtained as a result of the use of the apparatus mentioned are as follows :—

Monthly deposit of total solids in tons per square mile.

<i>Station</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
1	9.2	9.5	5.2	3.9	8.1	4.8
2	15.3	13.2	9.5	8.6	12.8	12.0
3	12.6	11.4	9.8	9.2	14.4	10.8
4	12.6	10.0	13.6	9.7	12.1	8.2

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day.

<i>Station</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
1	0.19	0.16	0.18	0.52	0.87	1.07
2	0.37	0.33	0.40	0.94	1.28	1.74
3	0.98	0.77	1.03	1.81	2.38	2.78
4	0.65	0.59	0.73	1.61	2.12	2.22

171 smoke observations were carried out during the year, and 45 visits made to installations. Some of the work which was carried out as a result of these visits is given below :—

Provision of a filter unit for the exhaust duct of a ventilating system.

Replacement fittings to Cornish boiler installation.

Fitting of arresters to two cupolettes.

New plates fitted to two grit arresters.

Two defective boilers remedied.

Alterations to a grit arrester.

Extractor fan repaired.

Improved type of smoke outlet shaft fitted.

New grit arresters installed to two cupolas.

Advice given on installation of tunnel kiln for metal annealing and firing by pulverised fuel.

Surveys with deposit glasses have been carried out to assess the efficiency of grit arresters fitted to cupolas. This work is continuing.

CONTROL OF RATS, FLIES, ETC.

Complaints of infestation of premises by rats and mice were dealt with usually by laying poison baits. Maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out and showed very little infestation.

By careful control of the refuse tip, the collection of refuse as frequently as possible, by advice to owners of cafes, canteens, etc., concerning the disposal of refuse, and by the continued development of the organisation for the collection of waste food, the amount of fly breeding is now very much reduced.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

During the year, as opportunity permitted, a survey of the shops in the Borough was started, and at several, the sanitary accommodation was found to be unsatisfactory. Little is known as to office accommodation.

FACTORIES.

Factory inspections were carried out as frequently as possible and whereas in the larger establishments the standards of cleanliness was usually good, in some of the smaller factories there is need for considerable improvement.

In connection with the means of escape in case of fire, 17 certificates were issued during the year.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

During 1950, 97 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit and 5 licences for the storage of calcium carbide.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND TRANSPORT

The public cleansing service includes the collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse, and the collection and disposal of salvage. Street cleansing, including gulley emptying and snow removal, and the care of public conveniences, are dealt with by the Highways Department under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor, Mr. T. W. Tivey, M.I.Mun.E.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of refuse is carried out with freighters of modern design, four of which have a capacity of seven cubic yards and two of ten cubic yards, one of the latter being a new vehicle.

The Borough is divided into five districts, but the difficulties of maintaining adequate collections have been increased by the shortage of labour and the abnormal sickness rate amongst the staff, probably due to the rather more severe weather conditions prevailing during the early Winter than during the past few years. A revision of the incentive bonus scheme brought an increase in the total number of bins emptied per team and enabled the department by increasing earnings, to retain workmen who would otherwise have left the Council's employment.

All the refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping on land off Stourbridge Road, Halesowen. Since November, 1950, the consolidation of refuse has been carried out by using an angledozer, a method which is proving to be both satisfactory and economical. When tipping is completed the site will be developed as a park and recreation ground.

SALVAGE.

Associated with the collection of refuse is the collection of all types of salvageable materials. Separate collections of waste paper and kitchen waste are carried out in addition to the use of trailers on the refuse rounds.

There has been a continual fluctuation in the market prices, the situation regarding paper being particularly confused, but unlike some other authorities, no difficulty has been experienced in disposing of all the waste paper which has been available. Kitchen waste collection was further extended by the issue of an additional two hundred kitchen waste containers, but there was a decrease of 15 tons in the total tonnage collected, probably due to a falling off in the number of cooked meals being prepared on account of the decrease in the meat ration.

The total income from the sale of salvage declined by £89 compared with the previous year. Details of tonnage and income during the last four years are given in Tables III and IV.

COST OF THE SERVICE.

Compared with 1949 there was an increase in the cost of refuse collection of £529, but a reduction in the cost of disposal of £356, due to the use of mechanical equipment resulting in an increase in gross expenditure of £273, i.e. from £10,400 to £10,673.

Since during the year there were increases in wages and an all round increase in the cost of maintaining and running vehicles, and as the amount of refuse collection was some 100 tons more than in 1949, it is felt that these results are extremely satisfactory.

The net cost of the collection and disposal of refuse for each house increased only from 18/0½d. per year to 18/1d., i.e. to 4¼d. per house per week.

The total income from the sale of salvage was £2,991 10s. 3d. compared with £3,080 18s. 2d. in the previous year. It is interesting to note that since 1945 the total income from this source has been £14,828 11s. 0d. and in that time 1,221 tons of paper, 1,025 tons of kitchen waste, 434 tons of metal and tins, and 48 tons of rags have been collected and returned to industry, or in the case of kitchen waste, sterilised and sold for animal feeding.

TRANSPORT.

The department maintains and repairs all vehicles owned by the Council. At the end of 1950 the following vehicles and equipment were being maintained and serviced.

Public Health Department

- 7 refuse collection vehicles.
- 2 trucks.
- 1 van.
- 1 official car.

Surveyor's Department

- 4 trucks.
- 1 van.
- 1 gulley emptier.
- 1 road sweeper.
- 1 tractor.
- 3 motor mowers.
- 1 motor roller.
- 1 official car.

The repair depot and garages are adapted buildings, but preliminary discussions have been held in connection with possible sites for a new depot.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937
Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Reference By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :—				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	7	—	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—
Other offences	3	2	—	—
Total	19	14	—	2

No prosecutions were instituted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by local authority 	17	2	1	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority 	213	91	7	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total 	230	93	8	—

COMPARATIVE SALVAGE STATISTICS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950

TONNAGE

Year	Kitchen Waste	Paper	Scrap Metal	Baled Tins	Rags	Bottles	Bones	Tonnage
	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	Dozen	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.
1947	133 18 2	187 13 3	26 7 3	57 16 3	7 9 3	248½	1 3 1½	415 7 1½
1948	163 9 0	225 10 0	23 4 1	36 10 2	8 5 1½	1273½	1 2 1½	458 1 2
1949	212 7 0	258 5 2	24 10 2	14 5 3	7 0 2	1448	1 0 0½	517 9 1
1950	197 5 0	239 19 1	30 1 0	6 17 2	5 15 1	147½	1 18 1	481 16 1

INCOME

Year	Kitchen Waste	Paper	Scrap Metal	Baled Tins	Rags	Bottles	Bones	Income
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1947	514 10 3	1207 7 10	79 10 11	112 15 8	190 16 9	21 16 6	6 7 0	2147 12 5
1948	791 14 6	1480 5 8	79 10 1	71 5 9	174 0 4	59 1 10	6 17 8	2672 15 3
1949	1097 8 9	1654 12 1	88 1 2	27 17 3	149 16 0	57 7 1	5 15 10	3080 18 2
1950	1071 5 6	1670 2 9	103 6 10	16 4 4	114 1 10	6 2 2	10 6 10	2991 10 3

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE — HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE

Table Showing Cost for the Year ended 31st March, 1951

Particulars	1. Collection with depreciation and loan charges included or excluded.		11. Disposal with depreciation and loan charges included or excluded.		111. Total with depreciation and loan charges included or excluded.	
	Included (3)	Excluded (4)	Included (5)	Excluded (6)	Included (7)	Excluded (8)
(1) (2)						
Revenue Account.						
A. Gross Expenditure ...	£9,284	£8,651	£1,389	£1,300	£10,673	£9,951
B. Gross Income ...	£71	£71	£29	£29	£100	£100
C. Net Cost ...	£9,213	£8,580	£1,360	£1,271	£10,573	£9,851
Unit Cost.						
D. Gross Expenditure per ton ...	£ s. d. 18 8	£ s. d. 17 4½	£ s. d. 2 9½	£ s. d. 2 7½	£ s. d. 1 1 5½	£ s. d. 1 0 0
E. Gross Income per ton ...	1¾	1¾	¾	¾	2½	2½
F. Net cost per ton ...	18 6¼	17 2¾	2 8¾	2 6¾	1 1 3	19 9½
G. Net cost per 1,000 population	£ s. d. 228 12 2	£ s. d. 212 18 1	£ s. d. 33 14 11	£ s. d. 31 10 9	£ s. d. 262 7 1	£ s. d. 244 8 10
H. Net cost per 1,000 houses ...	787 8 8	733 6 8	116 9 11	108 12 7	903 18 7	841 19 3

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse for each house per week 4¼d., per year 18s. 1d.

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse for each resident per week 1¼d., per year 5s. 3d.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Drainage—public sewers	...	...	...	...	35
Drains	...	...	...	...	394
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	25
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	168
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	8
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	17
Nuisances (Section 93)					
Premises	...	...	...	...	1135
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	35
Dust or effluvia	...	...	...	...	7
Grit Emissions	...	...	...	...	55
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse—Dustbins	...	...	...	...	82
Trade refuse	...	...	...	...	3
Tips	...	...	...	...	251
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	7
Observations	...	...	...	...	177
Visits to plants	...	...	...	...	51
Atmospheric Pollution measurements	...	...	...	...	96
Tents, vans, sheds	...	...	...	...	53
Verminous premises					
Council houses	...	...	...	...	16
Other houses	...	...	...	...	12
Watercourses, streams	...	...	...	...	77
Water supply	...	...	...	...	11
FAIRGROUNDS	...	...	...	...	6
CINEMAS	...	...	...	...	1
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	196
RODENT CONTROL	...	...	...	...	131
RENTS ACTS CERTIFICATES	...	...	...	...	20
FACTORIES—with power	...	...	...	...	91
without power	...	...	...	...	2
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	14
HOUSING ACTS :—					
Detail house inspections	...	...	...	...	804
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS	...	...	...	...	1745
PETROLEUM	...	...	...	...	24
PIGSTYES	...	...	...	...	21
SHOPS ACTS	...	...	...	...	97

FOOD INSPECTION :—

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	38
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	46
Cafes, Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	48
Dairies, milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	68
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	52
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	25
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	78
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	88
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	127
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	32
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Street Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	47
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	112
Pigs inspected on private premises	386
School canteens	46
MISCELLANEOUS	805
						<hr/> 7901 <hr/>

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